

Female: Head-top and mantle darker grey than in nominate race, *B. m. palliditergum* and *B. m. puella*. No gloss on the mantle or head-top. But mantle more heavily suffused with black than in other three races and also averaging somewhat larger in size of wing.

In general appearance both males and females are considerably blacker on the upperparts than any of the subspecies adjacent to them but resembles *B. m. mystica* Neumann: Kikumbuliu, Ukamba, in this feature, but is separated from that taxon by the populations of *B. m. puella*. Both males and females average larger in size than the adjacent populations of other taxa.

*Measurements*: 35 ♂♂ wing 61.0–69.0 (65.4), tail 41.0–47.0 (45.4); 24 ♀♀ wing 58.0–67.5 (64.2), tail 41.5–46.5 (44.0) compared with *B. m. palliditergum* which is 57 ♂♂ wing 57.0–65.0 (61.9), tail 41.0–50.0 (44.9); 51 ♀♀ wing 55.0–64.5 (61.3), tail 40.0–48.5 (44.4) and *B. m. puella* which is 20 ♂♂ wing 60.0–66.0 (62.8), tail 40.0–46.5 (43.0); 25 ♀♀ wing 58.0–64.0 (61.0), tail 40.0–45.0 (42.5) mm.

*Material*: 59 (Angola 50, from Gambos, Fazenda do Cuito, Humpata, Caluando R., Nova Lisboa, Ruinas, Mulundo, Ambande, Nongombe, Cacupa, Huila, Caconda, Bihe, N. Bailundu, Mt. Moco, Amboiva, Tchamutete, Luimbale, Luhanda and N'Gungo; Zambia 9, Mayau, S. Lueti R., Mwinilunga, Luiwa Plain, and Chifuwe.)

*Measurements of type*: wing 69.0, tail 44.5, culmen 15.5 mm.

*Range*: Angola except in the extreme south and east, and in extreme north-western Zambia. *B. m. palliditergum* ranges from the eastern Transvaal, Rhodesia, northern Bechuanaland, northern South West Africa and southern Angola (Cassinga, Jundavala, Mupanda, Palanca) where it intergrades with *B. m. pintoi*. *B. m. puella* extends from the lowlands of Kenya and Tanzania to Zambia and extreme eastern Angola (Lago Cameia, Luacano) where it intergrades with *B. m. pintoi*.

*Remarks*: This new subspecies of *Batis molitor* from Angola is named for Dr. Antonio A. da Rosa Pinto, Ornithologist of the Instituto de Investigacao Cientifica de Angola, Sá da Bandeira, Angola.

## Further systematic notes on Mexican birds

by ALLAN R. PHILLIPS

(continued from page 112)

### *Certhia familiaris molinensis* subsp. nov.

*Description*: Rump darkest of all American races, usually dull Chestnut, but paler individuals (all immatures?) Argus Brown, somewhat toward Burnt Sienna. Upperparts otherwise resemble the rich rufescent coastal races from Guatemala to Jalisco (*pernigra* Griscom, 1935: Volcán de Fuego, Guatemala; *guerrerensis* van Rossem, 1939), but show somewhat more contrast, i.e. more white on the back and blacker crowns. Thus richer above than *alticola* G. S. Miller, 1895: Las Vigas, Veracruz, or *jaliscensis* Miller and Griscom, 1925: Volcán de Nieve, southern Jalisco. Flanks averaging richest, most tawny, of the races.

*Types*: original nos. 5993, 7627, 7732, and 7796 ♂♂, 7674 imm. ♂, and 7647 ad. ♀; Río Molino, as above, 29 Nov. 1961 and 7, 12, 14, 9, and 8 Nov. 1964. Collectors: A. Phillips, J. Nava (2), S. Farfán (2), J. Nava.

*Measurements of types:* ♂♂, length 133–141 [+; part of tail missing]; extent 195±; wing 62.2–65; tail 58.6, 61; bill 11.5–12.5; imm. ♂, wing 62 (tail worn), bill 11.5; ad. ♀, length 138, extent 197, wing 61.9, tail 59.7 (one rectrix 61), bill 11.7 mm.

*Material examined:* 11 specimens, all from Río Molino.

*Remarks:* (CAS, CM, HCL, KANU, LA, MICH, MIN, RTM, US, WF). The considerable local colour- and size-variations from Guatemala to north-western Jalisco and Veracruz are so random and non-clinal that recognition of races is difficult, aside from *molinensis*. Birds from the Pacific coastal ranges are usually rich, but I have one from east of Acahizotla, Guerrero, that is quite blackish and neutral above. Birds from the interior (Nevado de Colima eastward) are generally duller, but two from Michoacán (west of Cd. Hidalgo, KANU) seem rich. The smallest birds are from opposite extremes of this area: San Sebastián, Jalisco (my collection; very richly coloured) and Sierra de las Minas, Guatemala (HCL). Thus the characters of *pernigra*, *guerrerensis*, and *jaliscensis* are rather elusive.

*Cinclus mexicanus dickermani* subsp. nov.

*Description:* Sootiest, least brown or pale, of the races on crown, forehead, lores, and especially chin and upper throat; near Clove Brown. Body dark as in *C. m. mexicanus* Swainson, 1827: Temascaltepec, México, but seems clearest (bluest, least brown-tinged) grey of races except *anthonyi* Griscom, 1930: east of Nentón, Guatemala; "foxing" may be involved, however.

*Types:* original nos. 5995–5998 imm. ♂ ad. ♂ ad. ♀ imm. ♀; Río Molino, as above, 29 and (5998) 30 Nov. 1961; netted and prepared by Ciro González B.

*Measurements of types:* respectively, length 206, 209, 193, 185 [+]; extent 316, 306, 287, 281; wing 93, 92.2, 85.5, 85; tail 49.7, 52.7, 47, 42.8 [+; one rectrix longer].

*Material examined:* 7, all from Río Molino; also 1 juv. from Río Jalatengo, to south.

*Remarks:* (AMNH, CAS, CM, KANU, MICH, MIN, MSU, RTM, US, WF). This race is named in honour of Dr. Robert W. Dickerman, outstanding expert on Mexican birds, especially of aquatic habitats. As stated by Blake and Hanson (1942), post-mortem changes are serious; but I have seen several recent *mexicanus*, including 3 taken in the autumn of 1963 (south-western Chihuahua, WF). I perceive none of the colour characters claimed by Griscom for *anthonyi*, but all specimens from Chiapas to Honduras show a greater contrast of dark crown to paler back, as remarked by Hellmayr (1934).

*Henicorhina leucophrys minuscula* subsp. nov.

*Description:* A pale race like *H. l. festiva* Nelson, 1903: Omiltemi, Guerrero, but smaller.

*Distribution:* Mountains of trans-Volcanic belt of central México, from western border of Estado de México west to the Pacific (type locality).

*Types:* original nos. 5082–83 and 5511 ♂♀ (mates) and ♂ imm.; Sierra

de Autlán 5 km. by road (and just, 5511) south-west of Los Corralitos, south of Ahuacapán, south-western Jalisco, 24 Feb. and (5511) 31 Dec. 1959. (5082-83 prepared by W. J. Schaldach, Jr.'s assistants.)

*Measurements of types:* length 118, 114, —; extent 175, 166, —; wing 51.9, 48.2, 51.7; tail 29, 27, 26.5 mm.

*Material examined:* (LSU, RTM, WF) series from type locality and from Puerto Lengua de Vaca, on México—Michoacán border; also 1 from Puerto Morillos, eastern Michoacán, and 2 from north-west slope of Cerro Nevado de Colima, Jalisco (see Schaldach, 1963).

*Remarks:* My south-western Oaxaca *festiva* measure: 8 ♂, wing 53.8-57, tail 29.2 (29 April 1962, worn?) and 30.5-33; 6 ♀, 50.5-54.8 and 28-29.2 mm. Guerrero specimens that seem correctly sexed are fairly similar except for the longer tails of ♀♀ (29.5-31.5). Additional Jalisco specimens resemble the types except for a juvenile with tail over 30. México—Michoacán border ♂♂ have wing 51, 54.1, tail 27.5, 30; ♀♀ are 47.8-51, 24.5-28 mm.

*Catherpes mexicanus cantator* subsp. nov.

*Description:* Smaller than *C. m. mexicanus* Swainson, 1829: Real del Monte, Hidalgo, but as dark or darker; bill more slender. 4 ♂, wing 60.4-63.5; tail 48.3 (+ ? central rectrices missing), 51.6-53.5 mm.

*Types:* original nos. 4359-4360 ad. ♀ ad. ♂ (mates); south end (top) of Cerro de Buena Vista, 5 km. W. of Compostela, Nayarit, 11 Nov. 1956; collected by A. R. Phillips.

*Measurement of types:* respectively, length 153, 158; extent 191 (—?), 204; wing 60.7, 63.5; tail 54, 52.5; bill 15, 17 mm. Weight 13.8, 15.1 grammes.

*Material examined:* 4 ♂ 1 ♀, all from type locality and Tepic.

*Remarks:* ♂ *mexicanus* usually measure: wing 65-69, tail 55-59. (AMNH, LDY, RTM, WF). Dark birds occur north to southern Zacatecas, at least, but the darkest seen (especially on back and tail) are from the coastal regions from Tepic south and east to Guerrero. Birds from Sinaloa northward are small and pale, especially on crown and tail, and are probably best called *conspersus* Ridgway, 1873: Fort Churchill, Nevada. Recent authors (van Rossem, 1945b; Paynter, 1960) err in synonymizing *meliophonus* Oberholser, 1930: Alamos, Sonora, with the nominate race.

*Turdus grayi linnaei* subsp. nov.

*Description:* Palest and greyest race known. Upperparts near Olive-Brown, or varying thence toward Saccardo's Umber. Chest much paler than Light Brownish Olive, occasionally near pale Buffy Brown. Belly Pale Ochraceous Buff x Cream Buff. Flanks pale Isabella Color. Thus nearest *T. g. tamaulipensis* (Nelson), 1897: Cd. Victoria, Tamaulipas, but duller, greyer throughout.

*Distribution:* Arid central valley of Chiapas (and open pinelands to north), at least in its upper part at and near the Guatemala border.

*Types:* 1 "♀?" [= ♀ imm.] 1 ♀ ad. 1 ♂ [ad.] 1 ♀ [imm.]; Las Delicias, municipio de La Trinitaria, Chiapas (ca. lat. 15° 57' N., long. 91° 49' 20" W.), 7, 16 (2), and 18 Oct. 1964; collected by Abraham Ramirez V.

*Measurements of types:* wing 120.7, 131.8, 126, 124.1; tail 100, 113, 107, 102.1 mm.

*Material examined:* 6 more topotypes; 1 from bend of Guatemala border farther north (Vértice de Santiago); and 1 (WF 9448) from Río San Gregorio 40 km. south and 20 km. west or south-west of Comitán.

*Remarks:* In naming this distinctive race, I am mindful of the extraordinary ignorance of some of our highest-placed biologists today of our enormous debt to the great Carl von Linné, and of how few birds commemorate this debt.

(CM, LSU, MIN, RTM, WF, YU) The "*T. g. grayi*" reported by A. H. Miller from nearby Ciudad Las Casas (Miller *et al.*, "1957"; RTM) is actually *T. infuscatus*! Griscom (1930) erred in restricting the type locality of *grayi* to Alta Vera Paz (see *Euphonia hirundinacea*). *Grayi* is an earlier name for *T. g. umbrinus* Griscom, 1930: near Mazatenango, Pacific slope, Guatemala; for *grayi auctorum* the synonym *megas* Miller and Griscom, 1925: Matagalpa, Nicaragua, is available.

*Myadestes obscurus deignani* subsp. nov.

*Description:* A large, dark greyish form much like *M. o. occidentalis* Stejneger, 1882: "Tonila" [=Cerro Nevado de Colima?], Jalisco, but slightly darker on crown, nape, chest and flanks; upper tail-coverts and rump more slaty (latter less brownish than in *M. o. obscurus* Lafresnaye, 1839: México [=probably Xalapa, Veracruz]). The blackish sub-basal part of the secondaries is also larger, hence usually obvious in the folded wing; and the supraloral line is usually less whitish. Larger than *M. o. oberholseri* Dickey and van Rossem, 1925: Volcán de San Rafael, El Salvador, as described (not examined).

*Distribution:* Mountains of south-western Oaxaca and possibly northern Chiapas (though the latter populations are still darker above.)

*Types:* Original nos. 7988, 8105, and 8142 ad. ♂ [ad.] ♂ imm. ♂; km. 181-183.8 (*cf.* *Micrastur*), 30 November and 5 and 9 December, 1964; Santos Farfán B. (8105 collected by A. R. Phillips).

*Measurement of types:* Respectively, length 215 [+?], 224.5, 218; extent —, 319±, 308; wing 98, 100, 98.5; tail 92, 96, 95 mm.

*Material examined:* Ten from Oaxaca. (3 from Chiapas = Pueblo Nuevo Solistahuacán and (2) bend of Guatemala border.)

*Remarks:* (LDY, MIN, RTM, US). This lovely songster is named for H. G. Deignan, in recognition of the great value of his work; as far as North America is concerned, especially his important study (1961) of the type specimens preserved in the United States National Museum.

*Peucedramus taeniatus georgei* subsp. nov.

*Description:* adult ♂ similar to *P. t. taeniatus* (Du Bus), 1847: "Mexique" = "Tabasco" (*i.e.* Jitotol, Chiapas, or a bit north); *cf.* *Rovirosa*, 1889, in dull grey upperparts with deep sooty upper tail-coverts; but crown scarcely if at all paler than *P. t. arizonae* Miller and Griscom, 1925: Chiricahua Mountains, Arizona, being Mars Yellow (not Yellow Ocher approaching either Deep Chrome or Light Cadmium); chest intermediate, near the palest *arizonae*, Raw Sienna (*taeniatus* is usually nearer Yellow Ocher). Flanks also near the dullest, greyest *arizonae*, not as cold greyish as *taeniatus* but less washed with brownish olive than *P. t. jaliscensis* Miller and Griscom, 1925: "Zapotlán" [Cerro, Nevado de Colima],

Jalisco, or the (identical?) *giraudi* Zimmer, 1948: Las Vigas, Veracruz.

*Types*: Original nos. 7725 and 7786 ♂♂ ads.; Río Molino, as above, 12th and 14th November, 1964; collected by A. R. Phillips, prepared by J. Nava S.

*Measurements of types*: Length 135, 137; extent 225, 225; wing 74.5, 73.5; tail 54, 53.2 mm.

*Material examined*: 2 ♂ ad. 2 ♂ imm. 1 ♀ imm., all from the mountains south of Miahuatlán, Oaxaca.

*Remarks*: (RTM). This race may appropriately be dedicated to Dr. William George, whose brilliant study (1962) dissociated *Peucedramus* from the Parulidae, in which it had always been placed; in fact Griscom (1957) had united it with *Dendroica*. It was re-assigned to the Sylviidae by Phillips, Marshall, and Monson (1964).

I agree with Webster (1962) that the slightly paler back of Oaxaca birds, compared to *taeniatus*, is a poor taxonomic character, and that *georgei* is near *taeniatus* generally; but its definite combination of characters warrants recognition. Birds of northern Oaxaca and Guerrero, not seen by me, are probably also *georgei*, *vide* Webster.

*Ptilogonys cinereus schistaceus* subsp. nov.

*Description*: ♂ like *P. c. cinereus* Swainson, 1824: "Mexico" [= Distrito Federal?]; ♀ duller and greyer on chest and sides (usually not distinctly brownish like ♀ *cinereus*), and thus in less contrast to throat and cheeks. Rump also slightly greyer brown.

*Types*: Original nos. 7734 and 7908, ad. ♀ imm. ♀; Río Molino, as above, 12th and 22nd November, 1964; J. Nava S. (7908 prepared by Santos Farfán B.).

*Measurement of types*: Length 214, 209; extent 291.5, 286; wing 91, 90; tail 89.3, 91.5 mm.

*Material examined*: 7 ♂ 5 ♀, all from the mountains south of Miahuatlán.

*Remarks*: (CAS, LDY, MICH, MIN, RTM, US). *P. c. pallescens* Griscom, 1934: Chilpancingo, Guerrero, seems to be a synonym of *cinereus*; none of its various alleged characters is "readily appreciable" to me. Material seen of *P. c. otofuscus* Moore, 1935: Arroyo Hondo, south-western Chihuahua, is all worn and taxonomically worthless.

*Vireo huttoni pacificus* subsp. nov.

*Description*: The brightest, most olive-tinged, least grey (or brown-cheeked) of all the races of the Mexican mainland and Central America; sides of head, rump, and edgings of remiges yellowest. Underparts pale, though darker than *V. h. stephensi* Brewster, 1882; Chiricahua Mountains, Arizona, and *V. h. carolinae* Brandt, 1938; Chisos Mountains, Texas.

*Distribution*: Mountains fronting the Pacific Coast of México from Nayarit to south-western Oaxaca.

*Types*: Original nos. 3749, 4065; ♂, ad. ♂; Cerro San Juan, 9½ km. by road west, and south of (above), Tepic, Nayarit, 3rd February and 12th October, 1955. A. R. Phillips.

*Measurements of types*: Length 137, 133; extent 217, 213; wing 68.2, 68.5; tail 52.5, 50.8 mm.

*Material examined:* Also 2, Río Molino, Oaxaca; 1, Omiltemi, Guerrero; 2, Sierra de Autlán, Jalisco.

*Remarks:* (RTM, US, WF). In the limited fresh material seen from Chiapas and Guatemala there seem to be two races, neither of which closely resembles *pacificus*. I cannot confirm anything written about this species by Griscom (1930); nor can I imagine why a comparison of "breeding adults" with "young" (in a sedentary species!) should be thought to have any value.

*Basileuterus culicivorus ridgwayi* subsp. nov.

*Description:* Nearest *B. c. flavescens* Ridgway, 1902: San Sebastián, Jalisco, in brightness of pale head-stripes (except the posterior part of the superciliary, above the auriculars); but occiput, nape, and back less yellow, though still paler than the dull *B. c. culicivorus* W. Deppe, 1830: México = Xalapa, Veracruz, and with the occiput and nape more yellow-green, less washed with sooty, and thus more contrasted to the back than in *culicivorus*.

*Distribution:* Pacific foothills from type locality east to at least Pijijiapan, Chiapas.

*Types:* Original Nos. 7364 and 7366 (mates), and 7367 and 7351; ♀ [ad.?], ♂ imm., ♂ [ad.], ♂ (imm.); above = just NNW. and (7351) north of San Gabriel Mixtepec, Oaxaca (see *Micrastur*), 13 and (7351) 12 Dec. 1963; collected by A. R. Phillips and prepared by Juan Nava S.

*Measurements of types:* Length 137, 143, 140, 141 (+?); extent 185, 194, 188, 198 [+]; wing 57.2, 60.7, 60, 61; tail 53.5, 58, 56.8, 56.7 mm.

*Material examined:* Also three others from south-western Oaxaca and three from 6 km. east of Pijijiapan, Chiapas.

*Remarks:* (CM, MIN, RTM, WF). While there is no scarcity of birds named for Robert Ridgway, it is appropriate to commemorate again our tremendous debt to him in so many fields, prominent among which is the taxonomy of this genus.

There is a considerable gap in the known range of this species between Colima (see Schaldach, 1963) and the type locality of *ridgwayi*. The Chiapas specimens listed above are not typical, being duller on the head and apparently paler on the post-ocular stripe (upper part of the auriculars). A 22 August ♂ from Salto de Agua, Escuintla (farther east in Pacific Chiapas) seems to be *B. c. culicivorus*, if not soiled.

*Icterus gularis flavescens* subsp. nov.

*Description:* The palest and yellowest race I have seen. Near *I. g. gularis* Wagler, 1829: México = Tehuantepec, Oaxaca, in size, but differs further in more extensive white on edgings of secondaries and their greater coverts. Ad. ♂♂, tail 106 [+?]–112, bill 17.7–20.5; ♀♀, tail 100 (±)–104 (±); bill 18.1–18.9 mm. March ♀ near dull Light Cadmium, rest of series approaching Cadmium Yellow; none near the Orange of *gularis*.

*Distribution:* Coast of Guerrero, México.

*Types:* ♂ ad., ♀ ad.; just south of Tierra Colorada, Guerrero, 7th and 28th March, 1963; Sóstenes Romero H.

*Measurements of types:* Wing 124.2, 116.2; tail 109.7 [+?], 104 (±); bill 20.5, 18.8 mm.

*Material examined:* Also 2 ♂ ad. 1 ♀ ad. 1 one-year-old ♀, Tres Palos and vicinity (east of Acapulco), Sept. 1965 (all still moulting primaries).

*Remarks:* This, the palest, is the westernmost race of the species.

(to be continued)

## The roosting of the Pied Wagtail in Dublin

by JEFFERY BOSWALL

Received 19th January, 1966

The roost of *Motacilla alba yarrelli* in the centre of Dublin's fair city is certainly the best-known dormitory in Britain and Ireland of the Pied Wagtail, and is also one of the largest.

Observations were made at the site in O'Connell Street, Dublin, in 1964 as follows: 4th February, 16.45–18.15 hours G.M.T.; 13th March, 19.00–19.30; 14th March, 17.45–18.47 from the top of the Nelson Pillar with C. K. Mylne; 15th March, 17.44–18.55 with Miss Anne Deane; 24th March, 17.40–19.30; and 25th March, 05.25–06.20.

### DIRECTION OF ORIGIN OF BIRDS

From the top of the Nelson Pillar, whose parapet was\* 160 feet above street level, an attempt was made to determine the direction from which the birds approached the roost during the first part of the assembly period on 14th March. A note was made of the size of flocks and the direction from which all apparently newly-arrived birds came. The word "apparently" is used because it is difficult to be certain that the observer always spots the birds as they actually arrive in the area; he may pick them out only after they have started to circle, which some do. All birds thought to be in this latter category are excluded from the analysis below. It is thought that the figures given reflect a true situation but it is difficult to be certain.

TABLE 1

*Directions from which some Pied Wagtails appeared to approach O'Connell Street, Dublin, 18.00–18.35 G.M.T., 14th March, 1964*

N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.	N.
	7	10	13	14	5	10	30
	9	15	4	5	9	9	6
			1		5	13	
			20		1	13	
			3		3		
			1		1		
			9		5		
			3		3		
—	16	25	55	19	32	45	36

As might be expected for a roost near an eastward-facing coast, few flew in from the east, and most appeared to approach from the south and from points west.

\*The past tense is used because the pillar was destroyed as a political act at 01:32 hrs. on 9th March, 1966. It is to be hoped that the roosting wagtails were not unduly disturbed.